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Agenda items 14 and 108

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

**Letter dated 30 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

Please find attached a letter from Ms. Tzipi Livni, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, regarding the recent developments in our region (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the enclosed letter and its annex circulated to all permanent missions as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 108 and 14.

(Signed) Daniel Carmon

Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I thought it appropriate to share with you some information about recent developments in our region.

Last Sunday, the Hamas terrorist organization, which constitutes the Palestinian Authority government, infiltrated into Israel from the Gaza Strip. In the ensuing attack, clearly weeks in the planning, the terrorists killed two Israeli soldiers, and abducted Corporal Gilad Shalit, aged 19, who is believed to be alive and held by his captors in Gaza.

On the same day, an additional Israeli citizen, Eliyahu Asheri, aged 18, was also kidnapped by Palestinian terrorists. His body was discovered late last night by Israeli forces who determined that he had been murdered on the day of his abduction.

These Palestinian attacks were launched after long weeks of Israeli restraint in the face of numerous attempted kidnappings and unceasing Kassam rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip that have targeted civilians, schools and homes, traumatized children and paralysed the Israeli city of Sderot.

As you will recall, Israel fully withdrew from the Gaza Strip last summer in order to create an opportunity to re-energize the peace process. In return, it has received a daily barrage of terrorist attacks from Gaza and a Palestinian Authority controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization that continues to be actively involved in terrorism, while fundamentally rejecting Israel's very right to exist.

From the moment initial reports of the kidnappings were received, Israel has spared no effort in exhausting all diplomatic channels at its disposal and, in particular, has given Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, every opportunity to secure the safe release of Gilad Shalit.

But while Israel has given full priority to diplomatic efforts, it cannot tolerate a situation where its citizens are being held hostage by members of Hamas. As every hour passes, the threat to the life and well-being of Gilad Shalit intensifies, and the urgency of action to end this crisis grows.

In light of the absence of progress through diplomatic channels, IDF forces have begun to operate in the Gaza Strip. Israel did not leave the Gaza Strip in order to return to it. The military operation is specific in nature and limited in scope. Its purpose is neither punishment nor retaliation, and every effort will be made to minimize harm to Palestinian civilians. It seeks only to fulfil Israel's legitimate need and responsibility to bring Gilad safely home and prevent the continuation of terrorist attacks from Gaza against Israel and its citizens.

Israel has also decided, as part of its fight against Palestinian terrorism, to intensify its efforts to arrest terrorist operatives and members of Palestinian terrorist organizations and prosecute before the relevant courts.

The grave attacks which have necessitated Israel's response have taken place with the full involvement and blessing of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. They only confirm the importance of the policy adopted by the international community following the recent Palestinian elections, and the three core conditions it has

stipulated that any Palestinian government must fulfil to be considered a legitimate political partner.

It is critical, in this context, that the international community continue to strictly adhere to its policy and not be led astray by vague Palestinian formulations adopted for political convenience that blatantly fail — even at an elementary level — to demonstrate any commitment to any of these three conditions.

The Palestinian Authority is led by a terrorist government that remains committed to a radical and militant Islamic ideology, continues — even at this very moment — to engage in terrorism and reject the basic tenets of the peace process. Any such government must be treated accordingly — not be rewarded or appeased. Our common commitment to fighting terrorism and strengthening those genuinely committed to peace demands no less.

I urge you to continue to exert all possible pressure on the Palestinian Authority and on the Hamas terrorist organization, including its members and sponsors in Damascus, so as to ensure the immediate and safe release of the abducted Israeli citizen and to finally bring an end to the use of Palestinian territory as a base for terrorist operations.

(Signed) Tzipi **Livni**

Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Security Council**Distr.: General
5 July 2006

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda items 14 and 108Security Council
Sixty-first year**The situation in the Middle East****Measures to eliminate international terrorism****Identical letters dated 5 July 2006 from the Permanent
Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the most recent terrorist attacks perpetrated against the citizens of Israel — the continuous firing of Kassam rocket and mortar shells.

On 4 July 2006, Palestinian terrorists fired a Kassam rocket from the Gaza Strip deep into Israeli territory, landing in a school 12 and a half kilometres away, in the major city of Ashkelon. The Hamas terrorist organization claimed responsibility for the attack.

This Kassam rocket attack represents a serious escalation of the current situation. It was an upgraded Kassam rocket and travelled the farthest distance of any Kassam fired into Israeli territory. It fell in a populated area in the southern part of Ashkelon, causing damage to a school. Children playing near the property were thrown back by the force of the explosion. The school was occupied at the time and it is only by chance that students, teachers and officials were not hurt.

At least six additional Kassam rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel on 4 July 2006, three of which landed in the Negev and three landed in Gaza. Between 28 June 2006 and 4 July 2006, Palestinian terrorists launched at least 29 Kassam rockets from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, causing three people to suffer trauma and prompting a large fire. Since Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in August 2005, Palestinian terrorists have fired more than 630 Kassam rockets towards Israel.

I submit the present letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism launched in September 2000, which document the crimes for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.



I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 108. An identical letter has been submitted to Jean-Marc de La Sablière, President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dan Gillerman
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



General Assembly

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Sixtieth session

Items 56 (b), 64 and 65

**Eradication of poverty and other development issues:
women in development**

Advancement of women

**Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World
Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special
session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000:
gender equality, development and peace for the
twenty-first century"**

Letter dated 7 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information regarding the status of women in the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Alisher Vohidov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Status of women

In recent years in Uzbekistan a national mechanism has been established at the level of the legislative and executive branches of government to enhance the status and improve the situation of women, laying the foundation for the favourable development of the women's movement and the full realization of women's potential.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan has been active since 1991. It is the most authoritative and the largest women's organization in the Republic, with over 3 million group and individual members.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan performs a coordinating role in the implementation of State policy to enhance the situation of women, improve the role and status of women in society and the family and improve legal protection of their social, economic and spiritual interests.

The Committee is involved in training a reserve of women community volunteers, giving women access to active employment and analysing the situation of women, the extent of their participation in the socio-economic development of society, women's working conditions, the moral climate in the family and also the degree to which women enjoy social protection in enterprises, institutions and organizations, regardless of form of ownership or affiliation with government agencies. The Committee provides legal, psychological, material and moral support, and much more, to women who need it.

There are 21 elected women deputies in the Legislative Chamber of Parliament, which is equal to 17.5 per cent of the total number of deputies. Participation by women in civic and political activity is one of the most important levers for achieving equal rights.

In 1995, the post of deputy prime minister for social protection of the family, mothers and children was created.

The establishment of women's non-governmental organizations represented an important stage in the evolution of the women's movement in Uzbekistan. The partnership between the State and non-governmental sectors has led to increased coherence in the way that various questions relating to women's issues are framed and addressed. Recently, women's non-governmental organizations in the Republic have joined together in a coalition called Mekhr (Concern) and are in speaking with one voice in the international women's movement.

Much attention is being paid to strengthening international ties and integrating the women's movement of the Republic into the international movement. Representatives of the Women's Committee and women's non-governmental organizations are active participants in many international meetings and symposiums. The women's movement works actively with the United Nations and its agencies and with other international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan.

Focused work is under way in Uzbekistan to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform and Plan of Action, the Millennium Development Goals and other international instruments on the rights and interests of women.

At the beginning of 2006, there were over 80 legislative acts in Uzbekistan with a direct bearing on the protection of women's rights and freedoms.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in tandem with the Office of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (Oliy Majlis), has established a group to monitor implementation of international and national women's rights instruments.

The Women's Committee has developed a draft law on protection of reproductive health and reproductive rights for the people of Uzbekistan.

A National Plan of Action has been developed and is being put into effect to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women based on the outcome of consideration of Uzbekistan's report to the Committee.

In 2004, Uzbekistan submitted its second report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The National Platform and Plan of Action to improve the situation of women and enhance their role in society are being implemented in the Republic.